

Some of the information about Archibald comes from notes made by one of his granddaughters, Thelma, who wrote about her family, the John Hardy Flanagan family. She was a granddaughter of both Jesse and Archibald. Her mother was Bathsheba Smith. Another source of information on Archibald is his will although it raises questions too. The will uses the Flanagan name spelled "Flanekin", a common early spelling and is the last time it is seen spelled that way in the family. Why and how it was changed is not clear. An interesting facet of the will is the importance he placed on beds, bedsteads and furniture. In those days however, furniture of much quality may not have been readily available and took on added importance. In his will he provided some land with horses and farming implements for each of his children. He also provided for his wife with a lifetime estate of sufficient means to provide for her. He declared two codicils to the will, one providing for all the children to dig marl (agricultural lime) from a pit on one of the parcels and one which appears to cut one son out of the will almost entirely. That raises an interesting question of what caused the change but leaves no hint as to the cause. That particular son was first mentioned as executor but another son, John was appointed executor by the court later.

It can be assumed Archibald was a hard working person and an enterprising businessman much like Jesse Smith. Evidently, from mention of property in his will, he must have inherited a piece of property from his father, James. It is referred to as the James Flanagan parcel. Several other pieces of property were mentioned which it can be supposed he purchased while he was an active farmer and businessman. In adding up the acreage as best you can, he must have amassed at least 1500 acres which he could pass on to his children. His estate was probably similar to Jesse Smith's in size but he collected it in a shorter time frame. We do know he was able to build a handsome home and raise his children there. In writing about her early life and her family, the granddaughter, Thelma Flanagan describes Archibald as one who dressed immaculately in pants and white shirts. He expected the hired hands working for him to be on the job by sunrise and is reported to tell late workers, "You go back home and come tomorrow and put in a full day."

The extended family and the community respected Jesse. He was a member of the Free Will Baptist church and as he stated it, a "staunch and unfaltering Democrat." He was elected to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners in 1874 when the county became democratic at the end of the Civil War.

We do not know what Archibald's political affiliation was but he was probably a Democrat too as most of the family were. It should be noted here that Democrat in those days is not necessarily the same thing a Democrat would be today. We can assume Archibald was a member of the Disciples of Christ Church as most of the Flanagans were.

In conclusion, there are many things we do not know about Jesse and Archibald but it is obvious they both had a strong drive to do things with their lives. Based on my analysis